

REMARKS

Receipt of the office action mailed December 18, 2006 is acknowledged. Claims 1 through 28 are pending in the application, with claims 12-16 and 23-28 withdrawn. The withdrawn claims are hereby being canceled without prejudice, and will be pursued in a separate divisional application. Claim 1 has been objected to for use of the word "type." Claims 7 and 21 have been objected to. Claims 1-11 and 17-22 are rejected as anticipated by Gossweiler. New claims 29-34 are submitted herewith for consideration. In keeping with the foregoing amendments and the following argument, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

In response to the objection to claim 1, applicants have eliminated the word "type."

In response to the objection to claims 7 and 21, the claims as originally submitted are not in improper form. Specifically, claim 5 gives an angular range for the peripheral hole of not less than 180°. On the other hand, claim 7 places a limitation on the angular range in which the peripheral hole is not formed. The angular range in claim 7 in which the hole is not formed, is consistent with the angular range in claim 5 in which the whole is formed. Accordingly, no change to claim 7 is necessary. The same argument holds true for claim 21. Accordingly, claims 7 and 21 are in proper form.

Claim 1 has been amended to positively recite, in part, that the area of the center of the center hole is not less than 20% and not more than 50% of the area of the diaphragm, and that the area of the peripheral hole is not less than 1% and not more than 25% of the area of the center hole. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found at pages 19 and 20 of the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

By comparison, it would appear from Figure 2 the Gossweiler reference that the area of the central hole 80 is very small relative to the area of the diaphragm, and therefore the reference cannot satisfy the limitation that the center hole have an area of not less than 20% and not more than 50% of the area of the diaphragm. Further, the reference also appears not to satisfy the limitation that the area of the peripheral hole be not less than 1% and not more than 25% of the area of the center hole. Accordingly, the reference cannot anticipate claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is in allowable form. Moreover, there would be no way to modify the reference to reach the claimed invention without wholly discarding the very specific shape of

the front grill member 14 on the reference, which would destroy the express teachings of the reference. Accordingly there can be no proper *prima facie* case of obviousness based even in part on the cited Gosswiller reference.

Claims 2-11 and 17-22 all depend from claim 1, either directly or through intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2-11 and 17-22 are also in allowable form.

With further regard to claim 10, it is readily apparent from even a cursory review of the Gosswiller reference that the front grill 14 of the reference is symmetrical. For example, the grill in Figure 1 is symmetrical, as are the grills and Figures 4 and 5. Accordingly, claim 10 is novel and nonobvious over the cited reference.

Applicants submit herewith for consideration new claim 29. New claim 29 relates to a wide dispersion speaker system and comprises a cone speaker unit having a central axis and including a diaphragm having a conical portion, the diaphragm having an area, and a restricting element substantially covering a forward portion of the diaphragm. A center hole is formed in the restricting element and is positioned over a center section of the diaphragm and having an outer boundary and an area. The peripheral hole is positioned radially outward relative to the center hole and having an area, with the area of the peripheral hole less than the area of the center hole. The peripheral hole includes an outer boundary. The area of the center hole plus the area of the peripheral hole is smaller than the area of the diaphragm, and the area of the center hole is less than the area of the diaphragm. The peripheral hole and the center hole cooperate to form an annular sound travel inhibiting portion surrounding the center hole and having a portion positioned between the center hole and the peripheral hole, and the outer boundary of the sound travel inhibiting portion is positioned at least halfway between the central axis and the outer boundary of the peripheral hole.

By comparison, the invention of claim 29 is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, claim 29 is in allowable form as are the new claims that depend from claim 29.

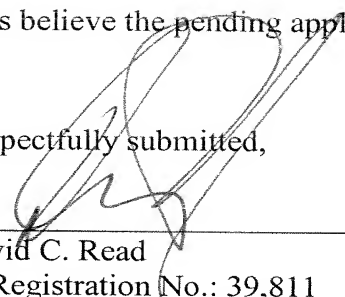
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In view of the above amendment, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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